

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 973 - SB 1159

March 26, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Coordinator of Elections to provide a list of authorized ballot-on-demand printers for the county election commissions to utilize during early voting periods. Authorizes counties to use ballot-on-demand printers during the early voting period at the expense of the county if they so choose. Under this bill, it will be deemed sufficient for each county to print ballots for election day equal to 104 percent of the number of ballots cast on election day in that county, municipality, as appropriate, for the previous corresponding primary or general election.

STIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures – Exceeds \$500,000/FY11-12/Every Four Years

Decrease Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$500,000/FY12-13/Every Two Years

Assumptions:

- Current law requires the Coordinator of Elections to provide a list of authorized printers for the county election commissions to utilize for the printing of ballots. The Coordinator of Elections is already required to provide a list of authorized printers for the county election commissions to utilize for the printing of ballots, so providing a list of authorized ballot-on-demand printers that the county election commissions may elect to use during early voting will be not significant and can be handled within the normal course of business.
- Current policy requires the county to print 104 percent of the registered voters per polling place. Under this bill, the county will print 104 percent of the number of actual voters in the last corresponding election. The number of ballots printed will be reduced under the provisions of this bill.
- The voter turnout is influenced by a number of factors and each election cycle is different. The number of voters who will participate in a corresponding primary or general election going forward cannot be determined. The Division of Elections estimates that printing 104 percent of the number of actual voters in the last corresponding election rather than printing 104 percent of the number of registered voters will result in a savings of more than \$500,000 for both state and local government.

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- A decrease in state expenditures in FY11-12 and every four years of an amount exceeding \$500,000 due to a reduction in the number of ballots that will be required to be printed for the Presidential Preference Primary which will be held in February 2012.
- A decrease in local expenditures in FY12-13 and every two years of an amount exceeding \$500,000 due to a reduction in the number of ballots that will be required to be printed for the regular August and November general elections to be held in 2012.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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